

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

ENCLOSURE D 

ARMED RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM IN NORTH VIENTAM

1. Armed reconnaissance is defined as an air mission flown with the primary purpose of locating and attacking targets of opportunity, i.e., enemy material, personnel and facilities, in assigned areas or along assigned ground communication routes, and not for the purpose of attacking specific briefed targets. In the ROLLING THUNDER Program sorties authorized for armed reconnaissance have been authorized to perform two additional missions (within their authorized armed recce capability limits):

a. Attacks against small pre-briefed military targets not on JCS list, followed by armed route reconnaissance.

b. Restrikes against previously struck JCS-designated fixed targets located within the armed reconnaissance area, with the objective of maintaining them non-operational.

2. Armed reconnaissance aircraft are authorized to attack the following installations within authorized geographical areas: Rail lines, yards and sidings, railroad rolling stock, railroad construction or repair, trucks, ferries, ferry approaches, fords, lighters, barges, radar sites, secondary bridges, pontoon bridges, pontoon construction sites, road repair equipment, bivouac and staging areas, SAM installations, AAA, recognized DRV naval craft, which fire upon our aircraft, small military installations such as barracks, trucks, vehicle parks, small airfields, supply depots, other targets of military significance; and JCS targets struck on previous ROLLING THUNDER programs.

JCS Declassification/Release Instructions on File

TOP SECRET

Enclosure D

TOP SECRET